

Christmas Snow in Portland

A Christmas with snow is a rare event in the Portland area (away from the mountains). In fact, between the years of 1940 and 2008, only one year stands out as a truly white Christmas (2008).

Following is a summary of snow and snow depths reported on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Bold numbers in the box indicate the probability of receiving at least a trace of snow on Christmas Day.

AIRPORT Years 1940-2009 ²			Chance of Snow on Christmas at Airport:		1%
On 24 December			On 25 December		
year	snowfall amount	snow on ground ³	year	snowfall amount	snow on ground ³
2008	3.1 inches	10"	2008	0.9 inch	10"
2007	trace	none ³	2007	trace	none ³
1998	2.0 inches	< 1"	1990	trace	none ³
1990	0.3 inch		1983	trace	none ³
1988	trace	none ³	1965	trace	none ³
1983	0.3 inch		1954	trace	none ³
1974	trace	none ³	1952	trace	none ³

²Snowfall measurements at PDX ended in 1996. Afterwards, snow measured at the NWS Office on NE 122nd.

DOWNTOWN Years 1884-2009 ²			Chance of Snow on Christmas at Downtown:		4 %
24 December			25 December		
year	snowfall amount	snow on ground ³	year	snowfall amount	snow on ground ³
2008	2.0 inches	12"	2008	0.3 inch	11"
1998	2.0 inches	none ³	2007	trace	none ³
1990	0.6 inch	1"	1990	trace	1"
1983	0.3 inch	trace	1954	trace	none ³
1937	1.0 inch	< 1"	1952	trace	none ³
1926	trace	none ³	1937	1.3 inches	< 1"
1916	trace	none ³	1930	trace	none ³
1913	trace	none ³	1916	trace	none ³
1912	trace	none ³	1914, 1913	trace	none ³
1909	trace	none ³	1909	0.2 inch	trace
1892	1.0 inch	n/a	1904	trace	none ³
1889	0.4 inch	n/a	1891	0.7 inch	n/a
1884	1.8 inches	n/a	1884	0.9 inch	n/a

³Snow fell, then either melted immediately, or later that day.